

What is claimed is:

1. A multi-purpose tool comprising:

a housing;

CU 227
a stapler detachably mounted to said housing, said stapler having an actuating member; and,

a recess in said housing that is engageable with said actuating member when said stapler is mounted to said housing.

2. The tool of claim 1 wherein said housing has a first side wall and a bottom wall and further wherein said recess is defined by an inclined wall that extends from said first side wall into a curved portion, said curved portion merging into an end wall that terminates at said bottom wall.

3. The tool of claim 2 wherein said recess is formed with at least two opposing undercut slots that extend from said first side wall along said inclined wall and said curved portion, said slots terminating at said end wall.

4. The tool of claim 3 further comprising at least two opposing flanges extending longitudinally along said actuating member for frictional engagement with a corresponding undercut slot when said stapler is mounted to said housing.

5. The tool of claim 3 wherein said slots have a decreasing width along said inclined wall.

6. The tool of claim 5 wherein said curved portion defines a transition area and said width diminishes in said transition area.

7. The tool of claim 4 wherein said stapler has a base and said base is about flush with said bottom wall when said stapler is mounted to said housing.

8. The tool of claim 7 wherein said actuating member has an outwardly extending tab and wherein said housing is formed with an indentation on said bottom wall extending rearwardly from said end wall, said tab being engageable with said indentation when said stapler is mounted in said recess.

9. The tool of claim 1 wherein said housing includes a corner opening and further comprising:

a hole punch; and,

a means for selectively fixing said hole punch in said corner opening.

10. The tool of claim 9 wherein said holding has a front wall and a rear wall, wherein said holding means comprises a first guide rail formed in said front wall and a second guide rail formed in said rear wall, and wherein said punch includes a punch casing having opposing grooves that frictionally engage said guide rails when said hole punch is inserted into said corner opening and fixed to said housing.

11. The tool of claim 1 wherein said housing has an aperture and further comprising:

a lighting means mounted within said housing and oriented for illumination through said aperture; and,

an activation means attached to said housing and electrically connected to said lighting means for selective illumination of said lighting means.

12. A method of using ~~on~~ a multi-purpose tool on a work piece whereby said tool has an detachably mounted implement in a palm-sized housing comprising:

- A. providing an implement with an actuating member;
- B. forming a recess in said housing that is engageable with said actuating member when said implement is mounted to said housing;
- C. mounting said implement to said tool;
- D. engaging said work piece with said implement; and,
- E. imparting a force on said housing.

13. The method of claim 12 further comprising the steps of:

- F. removing said implement from said housing;
- G. re-engaging said work piece with said implement; and,
- H. operating said actuating member.

14. A multi-purpose tool comprising:

a housing;

Q.30 a hole punch detachably mounted to said housing, said hole punch including a punch casing; and,

a corner opening in said housing that is engageable with said punch casing when said hole punch is mounted to said housing.

15. The tool of claim 14 wherein:

said housing has a front wall and a rear wall;

said corner opening has at least two opposing guide rails, each guide rail extending from a respective front wall and rear wall and extending into said corner opening; and,

said punch casing includes at least two grooves, said grooves frictionally engaging a corresponding guide rail when said hole punch is mounted to said housing.

16. The tool of claim 14 wherein said housing has an aperture and further comprising:

a lighting means mounted within said housing and oriented for illumination through said aperture; and,

an activation means attached to said housing and electrically connected to said lighting means for selective illumination of said lighting means

17. The tool of claim 14 wherein said housing is formed with a recess and further comprising;

Q 227 a stapler having an actuating member; and,

a retaining means for engagement with said actuating member to releasably hold said stapler in said recess.

18. The tool of claim 17 wherein said housing has a first side wall and a bottom wall and further wherein said recess is defined by an inclined wall that extends from said first side wall into a curved portion, said curved portion merging into an end wall that terminates at said bottom wall.

19. The tool of claim 18 wherein said recess is formed with a pair of opposing undercut slots that extend from said first side wall along said inclined wall and through said curved portion, said slots terminating at said end wall.

20. The tool of claim 19 wherein said curved portion defines a transition area and said slots have a width, said width diminishing in said transition area.